

**Joint meeting of the Global Crop Diversity Trust and
the European Genebank Integration System (AEGIS) project Steering Committee**

21 June 2005, 8:30 – 13:00, FAO room B640, Rome, Italy

Date of update: 14/06/2005

Joint Trust and AEGIS meeting:

Seeing the mutual interest between AEGIS and the Trust in support to efficient and effective conservation systems, it was proposed to hold a joint meeting between the Trust and AEGIS during the AEGIS Steering Committee meeting.

Objective:

- To share information on:
 - the AEGIS project and the planned elements of a European conservation strategy for the efficient and effective conservation of PGR collections
 - the Trust and its experience in supporting the development of conservation strategies
- To discuss collaboration on possible approaches for the development of a European conservation strategy

Venue and logistics: The half-day meeting on 21 June 2005 will be held at FAO, room B640. FAO building passes will be issued for the external participants, to be collected at 8:00am on the 21 June.

Agenda: Tuesday 21 June, FAO, Rome, room B640

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 – 10:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome address – Trust and AEGIS ▪ Introduction of participants – all ▪ Presentation on the AEGIS project: what AEGIS is about, what AEGIS has achieved so far and a vision for the future ▪ Presentation on the Global Crop Diversity Trust: objectives, process for developing the conservation strategies and lessons learned ▪ Discussion of the experiences and lessons learned in developing rational approaches to conservation |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10:30 – 13:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion and suggestions on possible approaches for the development of a European conservation strategy and on the role of the Trust in support of the process ▪ Discussion and suggestions for the involvement of European institutions in the development of global crop conservation strategies ▪ Identification of possible areas of collaboration on technical issues related to conservation strategies ▪ Suggestions on next steps |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | <i>Lunch</i> – participants free |

Background documents:

- Trust: Conservation strategies overview paper
- Trust: Guidelines for the development of regional conservation strategies
- Trust: Guidelines for the development of crop conservation strategies
- Trust: Update on the regional and global crop conservation strategies – June 2005
- AEGIS project document
- AEGIS first meeting report

Participants

1. Birgitte Lund - AEGIS Coordinator
2. Eva Thörn, AEGIS-SC Chair
3. Ayfer Tan, Turkey
4. Bela Bartha, Pro Specie Rara, Switzerland
5. Eliseu Bettencourt, Portugal
6. Frank Begemann, ZADI, Germany
7. Geert Kleijer, Switzerland
8. Lorenzo Maggioni, ECP/GR Coordinator
9. Jan Engels, IPGRI
10. Jane Toll, IPGRI
11. Ehsan Dulloo, IPGRI
12. Elcio Guimaraes, FAO
13. Sonia Dias, IPGRI
14. Geoff Hawtin, Trust Executive Secretary
15. Brigitte Laliberté, Trust Secretariat
16. Ruth Raymond, Trust Secretariat

Background information on AEGIS (<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm>)

The overall goal of the AEGIS project is to ensure conservation and continuing use of existing crop genetic diversity in Europe. The guiding principles are the long-term conservation, high quality of and easy access to genetic material, the avoidance of duplication of conservation efforts and making better use of existing but dispersed capacities and capabilities. The expected impact is to:

- Facilitate substantial steps ahead in terms of sharing of long-term conservation responsibilities in Europe
- Support the establishment of an effective cooperative approach towards a cost-efficient European long-term conservation
- Identify all relevant and available resources at institutional and national level that could be integrated into a European Genebank System
- Enhance priority setting and targeting of conservation efforts
- Increase transparency of conservation activities and crop-related expertise in Europe
- Facilitate steps conducive to a more effective use of conserved germplasm accessions
- Promote a system that would improve the quality of germplasm conservation (increased genetic integrity and improved conservation and characterization)

Background information on the Global Crop Diversity Trust (<http://www.startwithaseed.org>)

The goal of the Global Crop Diversity Trust is to secure the long-term conservation of crop diversity for food security worldwide. The purpose of the Trust is to support over the long-term efficient and effective systems for conserving, adding value to and increasing the availability of the world's most important collections of crop diversity. To achieve this purpose, the Trust is currently supporting the development of regional and global crop conservation strategies that will guide the allocations of funds. The Trust expected outputs are:

1. Rolling strategies for cooperation in the rational conservation of important crop diversity collections at the regional and global level, according to internationally agreed standards and promoting the development of information systems.
2. Funds to support the efficient and effective *ex situ* conservation and management of the most important crop diversity collections
3. Urgent upgrading and capacity building needs of priority crop diversity collections met, towards meeting the agreed eligibility criteria for long-term support (i.e. effective links to users, access to material and benefit-sharing, long-term conservation commitment, adequate conservation facilities, human resources and management systems needed, conformity with agreed scientific and technical standards of management, willingness to act in partnership to achieve a rational system for conserving plant genetic resources and making them available).
4. Basic conservation costs of eligible collections funded over the long term
5. Adequate characterization, documentation and evaluation of PGRFA and its information disseminated
6. Availability and access to PGRFA and related information increased and links with users strengthened